OAC APRIL 2000

UPDATE

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL

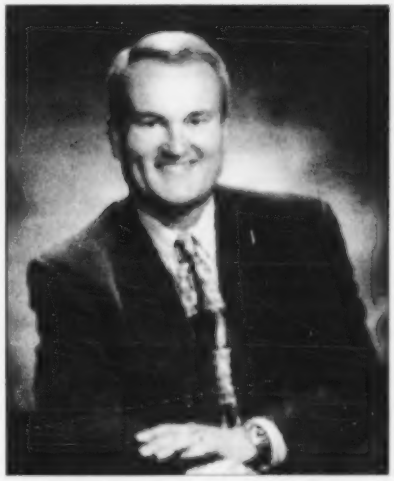
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

New Chair and Vice-Chair Appointed to OAC Board

Julia Foster has been appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). Vice-Chair since June 1999, Mrs. Foster's appointment follows the resignation of the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman. Stepping into the position of Vice-Chair is OAC board member Douglas Lawson, Q.C.

Julia Foster, OAC Chair

Mrs. Foster is a former marketing executive and has held senior positions as Vice President and Director of Market Research Services at a major international advertising agency and as Senior Associate with a Canadian public opinion research firm. Most recently, Mrs. Foster was President of the Canadian Olympic Foundation. A long-time supporter of Ontario arts groups, Mrs. Foster has served as Chair of the Board of Governors at the Stratford Festival and as a board member of the Bata Shoe Museum, the Toronto International Film Festival and the Shaw Festival. In addition, Mrs. Foster currently sits on a number of corporate boards and on the board of the Hospital for Sick Children.



Douglas Lawson, Q.C., OAC Vice-Chair

Windsor resident Douglas Lawson was appointed to OAC's board in 1998. He is Chair of McTague Law Firm LLP, specializing in corporate-commercial law, taxation and administrative law. Mr. Lawson has a long record of community service in the Windsor area, including several years as a volunteer and counsel for the Art Gallery of Windsor and the Art Gallery of Windsor Foundation. He has appeared before numerous administrative and regulatory agencies as counsel, including the Ontario Labour Relations Board, Ontario Liquor Licence Board, Ontario Worker's Compensation Board and the Federal Tax Review Board. Mr. Lawson is currently a Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Windsor.

ISSUE 5

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More Money for Granting Programs

The Ontario Arts Council is reinvesting $850,000 from administrative savings into its granting programs to bring the total granting budget to $21,670,741 for the 2000/2001 fiscal year. The last time OAC was in a position to increase its granting budgets was in 1994.

"We have worked hard to reduce our administrative costs in order to direct as many dollars as possible to support the work of artists," said Donna Scott, O.C., CEO. "I am proud of our progress and hope that future years will see further increases to granting."

The increases to OAC's granting programs are as follows:

- the granting budget for operating grants will increase by 2.8 per cent or $408,000;
- the granting budget for projects by arts organizations will increase by 2.8 per cent or $58,000;
- the granting budget for individual artists will increase by 2.8 per cent or $109,000;

In addition, OAC will establish Touring and Collaborations, a new $500,000 program. This is a 54 per cent or $175,000 increase over the previous touring budget.

An additional $100,000 has been set aside for special granting initiatives that are exceptional but do not fit current program criteria.

Former OAC Chair Leaves Important Legacy

The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman has decided to step down as Chair of the Board of the Ontario Arts Council. His vision and leadership will have a lasting impact and he leaves OAC confident that the Board and staff are on the right track under the direction of its new Chair Julia Foster, Vice-Chair Doug Lawson, Q.C., and CEO, Donna Scott, O.C.

Appointed to the OAC Board in January 1998, Mr. Jackman and his board colleagues made policy changes to better support arts organizations at a time when the balance of arts funding had begun shifting away from government toward the private sector. These changes included the equal weighting of artistic quality and organizational/financial effectiveness in evaluating operating grant applications. During his term, Mr. Jackman was instrumental in the creation of the province's Arts Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Ontario Arts Council Foundation (OACF).

Mr. Jackman is a well-known arts philanthropist who, through his personal foundation, gives grants to more than 50 charities operating in the arts each year. In 1995, he established a $1-million endowment at the OACF to support the Lieutenant-Governor's Awards for the Arts. Mr. Jackman will continue to serve on the Board of the Ontario Arts Council Foundation and on the Board of the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund. He is currently Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

OAC Creates Advisory Councils

The Ontario Arts Council will soon be establishing advisory councils made up of arts representatives from each of its sectors. These panels of experts will advise OAC staff on a range of issues.

In addition to the sector-specific advisory councils, there will be one cross-disciplinary council. More details on these new advisory councils will be provided in the next issue of *Update*. If you are interested in serving on an advisory council or know someone who might be, please contact the appropriate sector officer or call Kirsten Gunter, OAC Communications Manager, 416-969-7403 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7403.

New Dates for Ontario Contact

We have confirmed the dates and location for Ontario Contact 2000, OAC's annual showcase for the performing arts. It will be held November 17th and 18th at the Jane Mallett Theatre in the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts in Toronto.

Dates for Contact ontarois, the event for Franco-Ontarian artists and communities, will be announced shortly.

New Music Officer

David G. H. Parsons has been appointed Music Officer at the Ontario Arts Council. He leaves his position as Ontario Regional Director of the Canadian Music Centre to head up one of the largest granting sectors at OAC.

Originally trained as a flautist and composer, Mr. Parsons has spent the latter part of his career in arts administration. During his ten years at the Canadian Music Centre he has worked closely with composers, musicians, professional and community orchestras, choirs, new music presenters, and many others in Ontario's diverse music community. Mr. Parsons has a particular interest in arts education, having been instrumental in fostering educational outreach initiatives such as Creating Music in the Classroom, Cheapseats, Composers in Electronic Residence and Composer Companions at the Canadian Music Centre. Prior to joining the Canadian Music Centre, he was an administrative consultant for MythMakers, a Toronto arts management and consulting firm.

Mr. Parsons starts at OAC on May 8. One of his first challenges will be familiarizing himself with the wide range of organizations and artists that OAC supports. He will also be assessing how OAC's music programs meet the changing needs of Ontario's music community.

Granting Language

In an effort to clarify the language OAC uses in its granting programs, here are the terms we will be using from this point forward.

Operating Grants: previously known as annual activity grants, these are grants that cover operating expenses of established arts organizations that meet the assessment criteria for ongoing support. Arts organizations that receive operating support from the OAC have experienced the new assessment process for more than a year. Advisory panels are instructed to give a 50 per cent weighting to **artistic quality** and 50 per cent to **financial and organizational effectiveness** when evaluating how organizations meet the assessment criteria for operating grants.

Transition Grants: offered in some cases to arts organizations that no longer meet the assessment criteria for operating grants. These grants are meant to assist and provide some stability to an organization that must now adapt to reduced OAC support.

Project Grants: these are one-time grants for specific projects. They are not meant to cover operating or ongoing expenses. OAC also uses the term project grants for its grants to individual artists. Organizations that fail to meet the criteria for operating grants may apply for project funding if it is available.

Annual Grants: these are grants that do not cover core or operating expenses for arts organizations but support activity that occurs every year. For example, the OAC provides block grants to Canadian-owned, Ontario-based publishers that allow them to publish literary books by Canadian authors.

New Assessment Process for the Big Five Companies

Last year's new assessment process for operating clients was meant, among other things, to reward excellence at all levels. Now this process will include the five largest OAC-funded arts organizations (the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, the Shaw Festival, the Stratford Festival and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra). These companies will be reintegrated into their respective discipline areas when being assessed for their operating grants and will have the same opportunity to be rewarded for excellence as other organizations. Previously, the big five were not assessed in the same envelopes as other arts organizations. They will now be eligible for project funding as well.

Deadline Reminder

Since last fall, many of OAC's Toronto clients have enthusiastically embraced the building's extended hours on deadline day. However, a few problems have emerged as a result. The building security guard has responsibilities that take him away from his post after 9 p.m. We recommend that clients who wish to drop off their applications after business hours ensure that they are here before 9 p.m. Please complete your application before you deliver it. This includes the collating of materials. The building lobby is not equipped for photocopying, stapling or collating. We realize that deadlines can be stressful, but please do not take out your frustrations on either the building doors or the security guard. Remember you may send your applications via Canada Post or a courier company as long as it is postmarked no later than the deadline date. If a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it moves to the next business day.

Awards News

On February 22, 2000, the Ontario Arts Council Foundation announced the winners of the **$40,000 K. M. Hunter Artists Awards**. Five awards of $8,000 were presented to the following artists: **Kim Frank** (Dance), **Peter Darbyshire** (Literature), **Andrea Koziol** and **Alice Ho** (Music co-winners), **Shary Boyle** (Visual Arts), **and Erika Hennebury and Ruth Madoc-Jones** (Theatre co-winners). These awards are designed to support and encourage artists who have completed their professional training and have begun to establish themselves and make an impact in their chosen field.

Two juries of schoolchildren from Givins/Shaw Public School in Toronto will announce the winners of this year's **Ruth Schwartz Children's Book Award** on Canada Book Day, April 27. This event will take place at **Mabel's Fables**, a Toronto children's book store. The administration of this award is shared by the **Ontario Arts Council** which selects the juries, the **Ontario Arts Council Foundation**, and the **Canadian Booksellers Association**, whose members select the short list of books.

The winners of Canada's largest national arts awards, the **Chalmers Awards**, will be announced on May 15, 2000. Thirteen recipients will each receive $25,000.

For more information about awards and prizes, call Linda Brown, Awards Officer at (416) 969-7464 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7464.

Online Resources at the Centre for Cultural Management

The Centre for Cultural Management (CCM) at the University of Waterloo is providing free online professional development that OAC clients might find extremely useful.

Through the CCM's Cultural Management Institute (CMI), five interactive learning modules can be pursued either informally for independent learning or more formally for a certificate of completion. They are available over the Internet for free, thanks in part to support from Imperial Oil of Canada.

For more information, visit http://ccm.uwaterloo.ca and click on CMI.

Ontario Arts Council
151 Bloor Street West
5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1T6
Telephone (416) 961-1660
Fax (416) 961-7796
Toll-free 1-800-387-0058
E-mail: info@arts.on.ca
Web site: www.arts.on.ca

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